ductions is less than 30% of the book profit, the total income of the company shall be deemed to be 30% of the book profit and shall be charged to tax accordingly. Companies engaged in the power and infrastructure sectors will, however, be exempted from the levy of Minimum Alternate Tax.

Exporters including in Dubious Activities

*263. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether dubious activities of some of the exporters have come to light of Government, like repatriation of foreign exchange by over-invoicing, manipulation of documents to show higher quantity of exports, purchase of export goods from non-existent companies/supporting manufacturers, misdeclaration of description of export goods, enhancement of weight, bogus exports etc;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the country has been duped and put to financial loss;

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the persons involved in those dubious activities; and

(e) how Government propose to check all such uncalled for activities of the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AF-FAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) During the last three years, a number of cases involving various types of contravention of export promotion schemes as also Customs law concerning exports have been detected by the Customs authorities. Adjudications have been completed in 361 cases where Rs. 101 crores of Customs duty which was sought to be evaded was realised as also denial of Rs. 32.88 crores of excess drawback claims. Fines amounting to Rs. 8.69 crores and penalties of Rs. 5.76 crores have been imposed. 43 persons have been arrested out of whom 9 persons have been detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act.

In other cases, adjudication proceedings are in progress. The amount involved would be known only after the adjudication proceedings are completed.

Customs formations have been directed to keep a close vigil over clearances made under various export promotion schemes. The procedure and the system of monitoring have been tightened to check the misuse of these schemes.

Establishment of Airports in M.P., Assam, Bihar and Rajasthan

*264. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish more airports in M.P., Assam, Bihar and Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Apart from the development of an airport at Ajmer, in Rajasthan, there is no proposal to establish any other airport. However, the existing airports in these states are being upgraded wherever necessary.

New Television Channel for Educational Purposes

*265. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question No. 163 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th March, 1996, and 'State:

(a) whether Government have worked out details to start the new channel for educational purposes to popularise distance education;

(b) if not, whether Government would consider to allot a channel to some private agency for this purpose; and

(c) if so, what conditions the private agency would be required to fulfil for starting the channel for educational purposes?

THE MINISTER OF INFOR MATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM) (a) A Working Group has been constituted in the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development to recommend measures for rapid expansion of Open Learning/Distance Education, including operationalisation of educational satellite TV Channel. Further action can be taken on receipt of report of the Working Group.

(b) There is no proposal to allot a channel to private agencies for this purpose.

(c) Does not arise.

Government proposal for electoral reforms

*266, SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to effect changes in the present electoral system of the country;

(b) whether Government propose to hold wide ranging discussions on the issue of electoral reforms; and

(c) whether Government propose to convene an all-party meeting to arrive at a consensus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b)and (c) The Government has already discussed certain proposals on electoral reforms with leaders of various political parties in a meeting held on 23.7.% in which consensus emerged in respect of certain proposals.

Omkar Goswami Committee Report

*267.SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAM-CHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that almost three years after the Omkar Goswami Committee gave its report on industrial sickness, Government have not done anything substantial to implement its recommendations;

(b) the recommendations on which some action has been taken and the ones on which no action has been taken; and

(c) by when this report/recommenda-tions are likely to be fully implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The recommendations of the Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restructuring headed by Dr. Omkar Goswami have been under active consideration of the Government. The recommendations of the Committee were also discussed in the meetings of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance. However, no consensus has yet emerged on these recommendations.

It may be added that the Government have initiated a total review of Sick Industrial Companies (Speical Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA) and the working of the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) with the intention to bring a new Bill in the Parliament. The recommendations of the Goswami Committee will also be kept in view while preparing the new Bill.

तपेदिक (टी०बी०) के कारण होने वाली मौतें

***268. श्री नरेश यादवः क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः**

(क) देश में प्रति वर्ष तपेदिक से मरने वाले रोगियों की संख्या कितनी है;